

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 15468 300900Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7980

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 15468

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS: INDONESIAN LETTER TO SECRETARY

1. ON NOVEMBER 27 MINISTER OF JUSTICE MOCHTAR TELEPHONED ME TO ASK WHETHER I WAS AWARE OF LETTER FROM FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK TO SECRETARY ON LAW OF SEA. WHEN I ANSWERED IN NEGATIVE HE SAID LETTER HAD BEEN SENT WITHOUT CLEARANCE WITH HIM AND UNFORTUNATELY DID NOT REFLECT "CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS" WHICH HAD BEEN MADE IN RECENT U.S.-INDONESIAN DISCUSSIONS.

2. HE SAID HE WAS PERSONALLY DISTRESSED AT TONE AND CONTENT OF LETTER BUT WAS AT LOSS TO KNOW HOW TO HANDLE PROBLEM. I SAID I WOULD INFORM DEPARTMENT OF HIS CONCERN AND SUGGEST THAT WHEN LETTER IS PUT BEFORE SECRETARY ACCOMPANYING MEMORANDUM CALL ATTENTION TO FACT THAT IT DOES NOT REFLECT RECENT PROGRESS. MOCHTAR AGREED WITH THIS APPROACH. I SAID I ASSUMED LETTER WAS IN RESPONSE TO MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY DURING LAST LOS CONFERENCE.

3. MOCHTAR SAID INDONESIA CONTINUES TO FEEL THAT BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH U.S. ON LAW OF SEA WOULD BE APPROPRIATE IN FEBRUARY AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL. I SAID WE, TOO, LOOK FORWARD TO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS BUT, OBVIOUSLY, IN VIEW OF CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATION I COULD MAKE NO COMMITMENT ON LEVEL.

4. SUBSEQUENTLY, FOREIGN OFFICE HAS PROVIDED US WITH COPY OF LETTER WHICH IS AS MOCHTAR SAID. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT
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PAGE 02 JAKART 15468 300900Z

ORIGINAL BE SUBMITTED BY MEMORANDUM TO SECRETARY WHICH REFERS

TO MOCHTAR'S CALL AND REMIND SECRETARY OF FURTHER PROGRESS
MADE IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS AT STAFF LEVEL BOTH IN JAKARTA
AND NEW YORK.

5. WE KNOW THAT FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK TURNED SECRETARY'S
LETTERS ON LOS OVER TO MRS. WIRJOSAPUTRO, DIRECTOR OF THE
SECRETARIAT OF THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS,
FOR ACTION/ SHE IS STRONGLY ORIENTED TO THIRD WORLD SOLIDARITY
AND NOT PARTICULARLY FRIENDLY TO US. WE STRONGLY SUGGEST
THAT SECRETARY NOT REPEAT NOT REPLY TO THIS LETTE BUT
AUTHORIZED ME TO MAKE WHATEVER ORAL RESPONSE MAY BE APPRO-
PRIATE TO FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK AS WELL AS TO JUSTICE
MINISTER MOCHTAR. THIS WOULD PROVIDE ME WITH OPPORTUNITY
TO REMIND FOREIGN MINISTER OF PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE
AND TO INDICATE OUR CONTINUED WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER
FURTHER BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS IN FEBRUARY.
NEWSOM

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